Notes on *Fahrenheit 451*

* Author Ray Bradbury (science fiction author; also wrote “There Will Come Soft Rains”)
* *Historical Context:* Published in 1953 under Cold War and McCarthy eras in American history. Also, Nazi book burnings of the 1930s, and other censorship.
* Reflects Bradbury’s ideas about censorship, conformity, consumerism, and American cultural decline during a period of time when one’s free expression of ideas could lead to social ostracization and, in some cases, violence.
* Takes place in a dystopian future (*dystopia*: a society that often looks superficially perfect, but is characterized by oppression and human misery)
* *Subjects*: Alienation and Loneliness; Apathy and Passivity; Change and Transformation, and others.
* *Style and Structure*: divided into three parts, each focusing on a different stage of the protagonist, Montag’s, transformation. 3rd person point of view, focused on Montag. Symbols: fire, the Salamander, the Hound, and others.